3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

PREFACE

121 The purpose of this study is to contribute to an understanding of all the phases of economic reconstruction of one of the
178 Baltic republics, Lithuania. The subject assumes greater interest when it is taken into consideration that Lithuania was impoverished during the World War, that even its few small industries had been destroyed during the hostilities, and that Lithuania had no natural resources such as gold, silver, iron, and coal. In the comparatively short period of her independence—twenty-two years—Lithuania improved her agriculture, developed her foreign trade, and made very substantial progress in every branch of her economic life. Before the Soviet Russian occupation in June, 1940, Lithuanian agricultural products reached the farthest corners of the world and were known for their excellent quality. Yet most of the valuable enterprises that enabled Lithuania to participate in the world market did not exist before the World War, when Lithuania was part of Russia.

000 The author gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. Michael T. Florinsky of Columbia University for his generous criticism during the preparation of this volume; to Jonas Budrys, Consul General of Lithuania at New York, for his encouragement and for the use of his library; and to Joseph A. Boley for his courteous assistance in shaping the final form of the manuscript.

3: Simutis S-4 (no date) 1942 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

PREFACE

●121 Originally this work was completed in 1940 and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the Faculty of Political Science, Columbia University, but since then it has been revised and brought up to date.

ANICETAS SIMUTIS

New York, N.Y.
January, 1942

121 The following Report of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts pursues the purpose of a concise and clear review of the history of the development of Lithuanian economy during the last ten years. With the exception of agriculture, it deals with all spheres of economics, i. e. industry, foreign and home trade, goods transport, the State finances, and credit conditions.

433 The synthesis of the dynamic of separate economic branches establishes the conclusion that Lithuanian political economy during the past ten years has achieved great progress. Although under the influence of the world economic crisis in the years 1932—1935 it suffered reverses or was at any rate hindered in its growth, the total balance of the ten years on an average shows a doubling of the real volume. Especially the years 1930—1931 and 1936—1937 were signalized by vigorous promotion and expansion periods. Whereas world economy in the autumn of 1937 once more revealed symptoms of a recession, in Lithuania the rising tendency continued.

The greatest successes were achieved in the domain of industry; its production grew uninterruptedly also during the crisis and has on an average increased two and a half times. The liquidation of Free Trade and the confinement of separate politico-economic spheres within their national boundaries under the operation of the world economic crisis, as in other agrarian countries so also in Lithuania have contributed to intensification of the development of home industry.

439 The Lithuanian foreign trade turnover has suffered loss during the crisis as a result of the fall of prices. Its volume nevertheless remained even during the crisis years above the level of 1929. The introduction of the licence system facilitated the maintenance of the active general trade balance in the crisis years and regulation of the trade balance with individual countries.

438 In the domain of home trade, the growth of cooperative trade must above all be premised. Private trade is developing unequally; for while intermediary wholesale trade is receding,

LITHUANIA
THE COUNTENANCE OF A PEOPLE

by Victor Jungfer

/5/ Preface

The knowledge of peoples concerning each other exhausts itself in a series of misunderstandings. There are of course books for orientation. But books on foreign countries are written the more easily the less one knows about the subject matter. The difficulties increase with knowledge. What on cursory observation appears as a fascinating contrast that could be set against conditions at home in a clever antithesis dissolves on closer inspection into a quantity of parallel phenomena. Things that at first appear completely strange suddenly show familiar faces behind their outer skin. What appear problems to the hasty observer disappear, but on the other hand others emerge which are difficult to explore and even the detailed presentation of which does not give the author the certainty that their meaning and essence will be understood by the readers. Thus, too, hasty visits to foreign countries--consider here a large section of the literature on Russia--lead more to a deepening of existing errors than to their removal, for even the educated observer will be more easily inclined to find in foreign countries that which he already knows, than to learn that which he does not yet know. In these reasons the present book finds its justification.

121 /6/ Our literature on the so-called "Border States" exhausts itself for the older period almost exclusively in philologic presentations, and for the modern period in political and economic ones. If here for the first time the attempt is made to investigate the spiritual characteristics of the life of one of these peoples and to

●/2/ explain these characteristics on the basis of their own developmental tendencies, the endeavor to communicate as much information of a purely objective nature on the fundamental areas of the spiritual and cultural life as is absolutely necessary for the critical examination of a people had to be decisive above all else. At the center of the presentation stands the idea of cultural development. Thus the first question became: what is there in the way of original cultural foundations? -- language, folk poetry, folk art, etc. -- and the second question: in what direction is the cultural development moving and what influences have affected it? -- where again art in its manifold forms of expression, as painting, architecture, music, and poetry, was taken as a criterion and assembled into a single field of observation. Thus the fact that the detailed presentations given here, of the language, the folklore, or the development of Lithuanian literature, for example, should not be conceived as an end in themselves will readily be understood by the reader who observes the broader frame within which all these themes are included.

The technical explanations have largely been relegated to the bibliographical references. Let it be added that among the books mentioned, the literature in the German language was treated along with the Lithuanian literature with something approaching completeness. For the pronunciation of the Lithuanian as well as for the spelling of proper names I refer to what is said in the notes on Chapter I.

/7/ The translations of both prose pieces and verses are my own with a few exceptions, which are noted.

○○○ Although the present book has resulted from detailed studies and a knowledge of the country extending over many years, I have not been able to do without the help of experts in

369 the military, and liberal professions, opened up
162 to the younger peasant generation. An initially
565 favorable economic development encouraged this
563 influx, which again completely changed the face of the city: the city of Kaunas alone doubled its population in a few years. In all areas a lively activity is being unfolded; along with material problems intellectual ones, literature, art, music, theater, science, are suddenly factors in the life of the people.

341 Knowledge of the development sketched here*
121 is essential for the understanding of what follows. It might seem, that is, as if a presentation of the cultural elements of the Lithuanian people would have to be restricted solely to this most recent period of time, insofar as the city is concerned. /147/ The historic architecture of the city would then be excluded from our treatment, since it does not bear the stamp of the same racial type. This is perhaps also the reason why until today there is hardly a single Lithuanian presentation of the historic structures of the country.

341 Nevertheless the present work must consider the architecture of the Lithuanian city for various reasons: first of all it was the Lithuanian Grand Dukes, the high nobility, and the clergy who ordered the construction of churches and castles. Furthermore--we may think for example of classicism--the great artistic epochs are more or less international; and third, the baroque, the most important building style for Lithuania, exercised unquestionable influence on the Lithuanian folk art.

346 There are probably no foreigners visiting
177 the country to whom the great religious structures, especially in Kaunas, would not be objects of attention and deliberation. The face of these buildings is clearly turned toward the West and not toward the Russian East. From the west came the Roman-Catholic faith, proclaimed by Benedictines, Dominicans, Cistercians, and other orders in the

* [see cat. 116, pp. 162-165 -- Analyst]